

**GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL
EDUCATION
Education Committee Meeting**

**LOCATION
Governor's Council Conference Room
3601 C Street
Anchorage, Alaska
Teleconference**

**Meeting Date
January 15, 2009**

Attendees:

Kris Johnston, Chair
Anna Attla
Julie Broyles
Debbie Kitelinger
Dean Konopasek
Taylor Gregg
Ric Nelson
Chris Saddler

Guests:

David Kvasager
Janean Butler
Geri Benshoof
Hettie Hume
Karen Jenkins
Barbara Murray
Arin Nez

Staff:

Teresa Holt
Heidi Frost

Reported by: Lenny DiPaolo
Peninsula Reporting

CALL TO ORDER – 2:00 p.m.
ROLL CALL

Welcome from the Chair

Announcements and Good News

The group introduced themselves during roll call and welcomed new member Janean Butler from Galena.

Teresa Holt announced that the draft for comments on the Department's Response to Instruction/Intervention booklet is out. There is a section in the booklet that deals with special education and they have been asked to review that section. Teresa asked the group for volunteers to review the five or six pages of the 70 page booklet. Julie Broyles, Debbie Kitelinger, Geri Benshoof, Hettie Hume and Dean Konopasek volunteered to participate in this group. Teresa Holt stated that she would hope to have this review completed before the end of the month and she will e-mail the booklet to people.

Dean Konopasek announced that in their special ed programs, they have had the highest enrollment this semester that they've ever had. He also stated that their initial certification program is growing and it is a distance program for paraprofessionals with their master's degrees that want to become special education teachers.

Approval of Minutes

Anna Attla **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Ric Nelson **SECONDED**. Hearing no objections, the minutes were **APPROVED**.

Education Committee Membership Follow Up

Teresa Holt stated that she got a hold of Gateway and that they are checking with their board members and/or the principal of the school and they will get back to her hopefully by next week.

Review of the 2008-2009 Workplan

Changes on Where to Turn on the Website

Kris Johnston commented on the positive change of putting Where to Turn on the website because the information stays more current than the old booklets.

Teresa Holt noted a couple of problems they are having with the site but stated that they are working on it.

Set Date to Create 504 Survey

Teresa Holt stated that it looks like they will be meeting on February 5th.

Presentation from Gail Greenhalgh

Heidi Frost stated that because Gail works mostly out in the bush, she is nearly impossible to get a hold of. She said that Gail also cannot commit to being near a phone at any particular time. Teresa Holt explained that Gail's office said that she was going to be in town at the end of the month and if she can't come to a meeting, Teresa will try to talk to her and get some information to share with the committee.

Kris Johnston asked if there were other people or other resources for transition information and David Kvasager mentioned the Set for Life manual which he noted is full of good transition information. He stated that he will look for the website and pass it to Teresa and she can send it out.

Heidi Frost also stated that she might have copies of Gail's training materials in a binder. She will look through it and see if they can scan some of it in and send it out to the committee.

Debbie Kitelinger also suggested that Bev Ingram focuses on transition between infant learning and the school district.

Review AKSPED and Ed Committee Brochures

Teresa Holt stated that she made changes to the brochures based on the suggestions she received. There was a group discussion about the use of the word "listserv" on the AKSPED brochure and the issue about it being

copyrighted. Dean Konopasek also noted that some parents might not know what a listserv is or what the term means. Teresa Holt stated that there is a sort of a disclaimer about what it is and how it is to be used that comes up automatically when people sign up. Teresa Holt suggested researching having the rules sent out to members twice a year.

Teresa Holt then addressed the Education Committee brochure and stated that the most difficult part was on panel four where it says, "How are the special ed advisory panel and the education committee connected?" She said it's a difficult concept to understand. She would like people to give comments or suggestions, and her goal is to have these done by the first week in February so she can get them prepared for the ASSEC conference.

Report from the Alaska Statewide Special Education Conference

Anna Attla stated that they were discussing the upcoming conference and trying to plan on how many people are going to be there. She stated the next meeting is scheduled for February 4th.

Teresa Holt added that Alaska Airlines has given a 10 percent discount to people flying in for the conference. She also stated that the conference is going to go green and that everyone will be given an e-stick with the PowerPoints on them or they will be posting them on the Internet.

Teresa stated that online registration is open and the discount for early registration ends January 25th. There will be a Governor's Council table at ASSEC and she would love to have other Council members join her at the table. Teresa added that if anyone has crafts or items that they make and would like to donate, they are trying to raise enough money from the conference to have money left over so they can get some bigger named speakers in the future.

Report from the State Board of Education

Geri Benshoof stated that they will be having a teleconference meeting tomorrow and they will be discussing the budget and the education summit.

Geri also mentioned that when Millie Ryan talked to the Board about nurse

practitioners being able to diagnose autism, Geri felt that the idea was unpopular with the Board. She stated that she will lobby for the idea that Asperger's should be included.

Report from Special Education Service Agency (SESA)

No one was available from SESA to give a report.

Report from Department of Education and Early Development (DEED)

No report from DEED was available for this meeting.

Reports on Conferences/Trainings/Meetings

Children's Mental Health Conference

Kris Johnston felt that the Children's Mental Health Conference was one of the best conferences she had ever attended. It dealt with children's behaviors and looking at different ways to approach intervention. She stated that if they have it again, she's going to check with Millie Ryan to see if more education committee members can attend. The conference was free at the Captain Cook. Debbie Kitelinger agreed that it was an excellent conference and wished that the whole thing had been videotaped. Teresa Holt asked both Debbie and Kris to gather names and put together a summary for her and maybe they can put some of those people on the agenda for ASSEC next year.

Important Future Meetings/Conferences/Trainings

ASSEC is February 17 – 19 in Anchorage. The Governor's Council meeting is scheduled for January 28 – 30.

Next Meeting

The group discussed the possibility of a face-to-face meeting around the

ASSEC conference. There was a suggestion of Sunday, February 15th at 5:00 p.m. for a dinner meeting or a lunch meeting on Monday, February 16th. There was no definitive date or time scheduled at this meeting. There was also a suggestion to cancel the February 12th teleconference in lieu of this face-to-face meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.